
ABROAD

ADDIS ABABA

Other Victims

World attention focusing on the famine in Ethiopia has uncovered the melancholy situation of ten members of the Ethiopian royal family who have been prisoners of the Marxist government for the last ten years, ever since the downfall of Emperor Haile Selassie. The royal prisoners comprise seven princesses and three princes, who range in age from 27 to 71. They are either direct descendants of Haile Selassie or relatives by marriage. The princes and princesses are being held in a former prison hospital ward said to be no bigger than 12 by 20 feet. There are no toilets or running water and not even beds. Food is brought once a day. Age and illness are affecting most of the prisoners. Four of the princesses—the emperor's granddaughters, now in their fifties—were educated in Britain and lived there for ten years. British diplomats have led a movement to free them or at least alleviate their misery, but so far the government of Colonel Mengistu, now soliciting famine relief supplies from Western countries on humanitarian grounds, has refused to consider these requests.

VALLETTA

Maltese Cross

Dr. Carmelo Mifsud-Bonnici has succeeded the controversial Dom Mintoff as prime minister of Malta, but this promises little change in the mid-Mediterranean island's policy of convulsive socialism. One of the new premier's first acts, for example, was to receive a delegation of Libyan officials dispatched by Colonel Qaddafi with an offer of jobs for unemployed Maltese in Tripoli in order to strengthen the friendship between the two countries. Mifsud-Bonnici is also expecting an offer from the Soviet Union to send divers and engineers to finish clearing the Valletta harbor of war-time hulks and to place an order with Maltese shipyards for eight new merchant ships—this seen as the fruit of a recent visit Mr. Mintoff paid to Moscow. Finally, the new prime minister is said to be anxious to improve relations with North Korea, already a provider of training and equipment to the Maltese riot police.

LIMA

Spreading Path

The central government's attempt to stamp out the Maoist movement known as *Sendero Luminoso*—the Shining Path—has grown into a full-fledged military campaign employing an army five thousand strong. Despite this deployment, and an increase in fighting that has resulted in one hundred deaths a month, the rebels have regrouped to launch a classic guerrilla war in the precipitous hills and valleys of the central Andes. *Sendero Luminoso* was originally inspired by the veteran Peruvian Marxist José Carlos Mariátegui, who spoke decades ago of Marxism-Leninism representing a "shining path" to national revolution, which formulation was taken up a few years back by Abimael Guzmán of the University of Ayacucho in the heart of the disputed district. The movement's adherents are firmly opposed to foreign influence whatever its form, and especially to outside attempts to improve the primitive agricultural practices of the central Peruvian highlands. For example, guerrillas

recently slaughtered an entire herd of cows at the university's model farm because they belonged to a European breed. The program of the guerrillas has been to attack and destroy all signs and symbols of state authority (and therefore of capitalism) by assassinating mayors, blowing up banks and government offices, sabotaging machinery, and setting themselves against any manifestation of the democratic Belaúnde government. Probably the most damaging effect of the war so far is the disruption of the lives of the peasants, who have fled to the coastal cities. They had held onto a precarious existence for centuries through high-altitude subsistence farming and speak only Quechua, one of the old Inca tongues of the Andes.

FRANKFURT

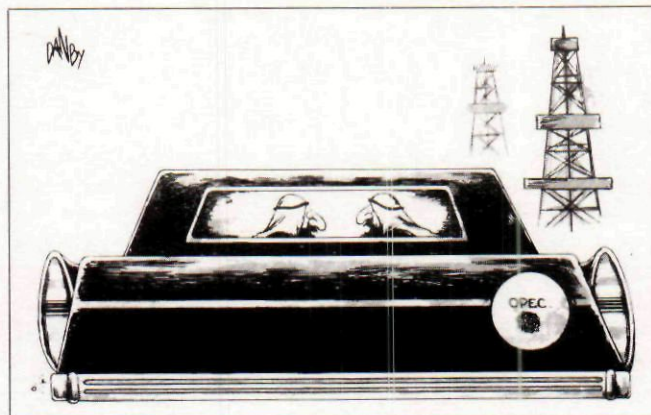
Tree Pollution

More than half of West Germany's forests have been damaged by air pollution, which the authorities ascribe largely to emissions from automotive traffic. According to the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Forestry, 50.2 per cent of the country's timber stock is suffering from "pollution-related" diseases, and the number of oak and beech trees so suffering has doubled in the last two years. Remedies center on the reduction of gasoline fumes and include the enforcement of speed limits on the autobahns and the fitting of German automobiles with catalytic converters. Another goal in the struggle, and perhaps the most difficult to achieve, is cooperation among members of the Common Market, whose individual pollution regulations are either nugatory or otherwise considered inefficient by the Germans.

LONDON

The Round Pound

The pound note is no more. As of the last day of 1984, printing ceased of one of the best-known pieces of paper currency in the world, to be replaced by a gold-colored coin with Queen Elizabeth on the obverse and coats of arms of various British domains on the reverse. The coin is small, slightly smaller than the American quarter, but much thicker and heavier. Like most modern coins, it is made of an alloy of nonprecious metals. There has been some public outcry over the change, but on the whole acceptance of the new coin, nicknamed "the round pound," has been widespread. The five-pound, ten-pound, and larger notes still remain in circulation. Coincidentally with the pound note, the halfpenny coin has disappeared. In the end, the "ha'penny," as it was pronounced, was worth less than an American penny. Like the farthing, whose demise preceded it, it will live on in literature and legend.



"I miss the old days: long lines, high prices, panic buying."

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